



Maine Department of Health and Human Services

MECMS Update 66

June 5, 2006

Billing News & Tips

Avoid claims suspension by using the Billing Provider ID number correctly

When the Office of MaineCare Services conducted a study of suspended claims, we found that incorrect use of Billing Provider ID numbers was the cause of a significant number of suspended claims. Please remember that MaineCare Billing Provider ID numbers are nine-digit numbers.

Some common billing errors include:

- Keying Billing Provider ID numbers incorrectly.
- Submitting Billing Provider ID numbers that have more than nine digits.
- Submitting Servicing Provider ID numbers (those ending in 99) instead of Billing Provider ID numbers.
- Submitting alphanumeric numbers for Billing Provider ID numbers (such as numbers beginning with ME).

Some billing errors relate specifically to CMS/HCFA 1500 claims. When billing on a CMS/HCFA 1500 claim form:

- Enter your nine-digit Billing Provider ID number in Box 33-PIN#. Don't enter a Servicing Provider ID in that field. If the services billed require a Servicing Provider ID, enter that number in Box 24K.
- Do not enter your Billing Provider ID in Box 33-GRP#.

Taking the time to check your Billing Provider ID number could prevent your claim from suspending.

Hearing scheduled for June 8 on rule change affecting cochlear implants

The Office of MaineCare Services is proposing changes to Section 90.05 of the *MaineCare Benefits Manual*, Chapter II, Section 90, Physician Services.

This change proposes that MaineCare cover cochlear implants for prelinguistically and postlinguistically deafened children ages one and older. The proposed rule also updates the criteria for cochlear implants for all members and makes technical corrections for clarification.

The deadline for commenting on the change is June 20. A hearing on the proposal will be held Thursday, June 8, at 11 a.m., at the Department of Health and Human Services on Civic Center Drive in Augusta.

For additional information, logon to http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/bms/rules/provider_proposed_mcare.shtml.

Now you can easily access procedure codes for DME, supplies, physicians

Physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners, and durable medical equipment and supply providers can now go online to look up procedure codes for their services. This listing provides rates, as well as any special requirements for the service. The listing may also be exported to Microsoft® Excel.

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Please note that the listing does not yet include J and G codes. Our website will be updated in the near future to include these codes.

You can access the listing at:

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/bms/providerfiles/codes.htm>. Click on Procedure Code Look Up. Then, in the “Select a code set...” box, choose the code set you need.

Please check the procedure code listing at least quarterly, in case of code changes.

In concert with this listing, the Office of MaineCare Services has implemented a new e-mail address bms.referencefile@maine.gov to assist you in requesting changes to procedure codes, revenue codes, ICD9 surgical codes, and ICD9 diagnosis codes. These changes include, but are not limited to, place of service changes, coverage of a code or changes to rates.

Please do not use this e-mail address to ask questions about denied claims or to verify data on file. You can call the previously posted numbers for assistance.

Submitting a request does not guarantee that the change requested will be made. Generally, these requests will be reviewed on a quarterly basis by OMS staff. The exception will be for requests made for changes to places of service. Because our former claims processing system only held 18 local places of service, and MECMS has all current standard places of service, the crosswalk to the expanded places of service did not cover all scenarios.

Please include the following information in your request:

- Provider name and Provider ID number.

- Contact name and telephone number/ e-mail address.
- Detailed information about what is being requested, including codes, why the change is being requested, and any specific date issues.
- If you are requesting that a non-covered code be considered, you must provide additional medical justification. Please be as detailed as possible.

Due to the number of requests we receive, we cannot send you a personal reply. ■

Contact Us

Call: 1-800-321-5557

TTY: 1-800-423-4331

Augusta area: 207-624-7539

On the web: www.maine.gov/dhhs/bms

Write:

MaineCare Billing and Information Unit
Office of MaineCare Services
11 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Our listserv:

Sign up for a convenient, fast way to get the news you need about billing procedures and other MaineCare provider information:
<http://mailman.informe.org/mailman/listinfo/provider/>

Previous issues of *The MECMS Update*:

http://www.maine.gov/bms/innerthird/mecms_update_for_provider.htm ■